



Dated:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/705,215

Confirmation No.: 2925

Filed: November 7, 2003

Art Unit: 1621

For: METHOD OF PREPARING QUATERNARY
AMMONIUM HYDROXIDE AND
QUATERNARY AMMONIUM CARBONATE
IN AN AMINOALCOHOL SOLVENT

Examiner: C.O. Nwaonicha

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the December 13, 2004 Office Action, please consider the following remarks.

The Examiner has required restriction in this application among the claims of:

Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a method of preparing a quaternary ammonium hydroxide; and

Group II, claim 16, drawn to a method of preparing a quaternary ammonium carbonate.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; and request rejoinder of Groups I and II.

The claim of Group II (claim 16) includes the sole step recited in the claims of Group I (claims 1-15). In particular, claim 16 recites reacting a quaternary ammonium bromide or chloride with a metal hydroxide in an aminoalcohol solvent to yield a quaternary ammonium hydroxide, as recited in claims 1-15. Claim 16 further recites reacting the quaternary ammonium hydroxide with a carbonate or bicarbonate source to yield a quaternary ammonium carbonate. Therefore, if the claims of Group I are patentable, so too is the claim of Group II, and the search and examination of the claims of Groups I and II together would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. See MPEP §803. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the claims of Groups I and II be examined together.

In order to be fully responsive, applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-15, for further prosecution.

Dated: April 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

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